

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OES-07 HA-05 /117 W
-----096390 131343Z /41

R 131319Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7375
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, GW, SU
SUBJECT: GROMYKO IN EAST BERLIN.

REF: A) BERLIN 3067, B) BERLIN 3205, C) BERLIN 3228

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, IN EAST BERLIN MAY 11 AND 12,
MET WITH HONECKER; HERMANN AXEN, SECRETARY FOR INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE; FONMIN FISCHER,
AND TWO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS, NIER (RESPONSIBLE FOR
WEST EUROPE INCLUDING FRG) AND KROLIKOWSKI (RESPONSIBLE
FOR EASTERN EUROPE). ACCOMPANYING GROMYKO IN THE
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OFFICIAL TALKS WERE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASSIMOV; ANATOLY
KOVALYEV, DEPFONMIN; ALEXANDER BONDARENKO, CHIEF OF THIRD
EUROPEAN SECTION IN MFA, AND VASILY MAKAROV, PERSONAL
ADVISOR TO GROMYKO. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS GIVEN LITTLE INDI-
CATION OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED OTHER THAN THE PAT DESCRIP-
TION "QUESTIONS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND DEEPENING
OF BROTHERLY FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION".

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED (WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT). THE COMMUNIQUE CONSISTED OF A RESTATEMENT OF WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS AND CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AND LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE. IT EMPHASIZED THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS "ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM", AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APPLICATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IN ITS ENTIRETY BY ALL SIGNATORIES. SEVERAL SECTIONS WERE DEVOTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES AND THE GDR EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS MADE BY BREZHNEV AT THE KOMSOMOL CONGRESS. THE TWO SIDES "URGENTLY" CALLED FOR PERMANENT RENUNCIATION OF THE PRODUCTION AND EMPLACEMENT OF NEUTRON WEAPONS AND THE CONCLUSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR THE WORKING OUT OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CONCLUSION TO MBFR TALKS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR EACH SIDE.

3. GROMYKO INFORMED HONECKER ABOUT THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO THE FRG. HONECKER, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, EXPRESSED "FULL SATISFACTION" OVER THE SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VISIT, WHICH WAS OF "VERY POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR PEACE IN EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL DETENTE". THE COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TREATIES BETWEEN THE FRG

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AND THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE WEST BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WHICH "ESTABLISHES THE IMMUTABILITY OF THE TERRITORIAL POLITICAL REALITIES IN TODAY'S EUROPE". THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THESE TREATIES AND AGREEMENT IS THE BASIS FOR ASSURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS AND CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES. IN HIS TOAST AT A DINNER GIVEN IN GROMYKO'S HONOR, HONECKER, AMONG OTHER POINTS, STATED THAT THE GDR IS READY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE FRG FURTHER ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

4. LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE EMERGED PUBLICLY ON BILATERAL RELATIONS EXCEPT THE FAMILIAR EXPRESSION OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. HONECKER, IN HIS TOAST TO GROMYKO, STATED THAT THE PROGRAM OF SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND USSR AGREED TO BY BREZHNEV AND HONECKER HAS SHOWN THE WAY FOR NEW DIMENSIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT. GROMYKO NOTED THAT THE GDR, AS THE OUTPOST OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, IS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM ENEMIES OF DETENTE AND THAT NATIONALIST AND REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN

THE WEST FUTILELY HOPE TO SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF
SOCIALISM IN THE GDR. HE DISMISSED THIS AS
VAIN SPECULATION WHICH WILL NEVER COME ABOUT AS SOCIALISM
HAS DEEP ROOTS IN EAST GERMANY.

5. GROMYKO AND FISCHER SIGNED A NEW AGREEMENT ON
CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. NO TEXT OR DETAILS
ON THE AGREEMENT HAVE YET BEEN PUBLISHED HERE.

6. COMMENT: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF GROMYKO'S VISIT
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO REAFFIRM BILATERAL SOLIDARITY AND
TO INFORM THE EAST GERMANS ON THE DETAILS OF THE BREZHNEV
TRIP TO THE FRG. IT MAY ALSO HAVE SERVED TO REASSURE THE

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EAST GERMAN LEADERS IN REGARD TO THE STATE OF SOVIET-
WEST GERMAN RELATIONS. THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS - IN PARTICULAR THE COMMUNIQUE - SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO INDICATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES OF POLICY ON BERLIN OR INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE BREZHNEV TRIP. HONECKER'S STATEMENT IN HIS TOAST ON THE READINESS

OF THE GDR TO CONTINUE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IS IN LINE
WITH HIS EARLY HANDLING OF THE INNER-GERMAN ISSUE AND IS
IN CONTRAST TO THE HARSH TREATMENT OF THE FRG IN THE
SPEECH BY GENERAL KESSLER (REF. C) AND THE EDITORIAL
COMMENT IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (REF. B). WE NOTE THAT THE
SOVIET-GDR COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF
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THE TREATIES BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES
AND THE BERLIN "QUADRIPARTITE" AGREEMENT WHILE THE
SOVIET-FRG JOINT DECLARATION OF MAY 6 CALLS FOR BOTH THE
STRICT OBSERVANCE AND THE FULL APPLICATION OF THE "FOUR
POWER" AGREEMENT. WE ASSUME THE DIFFERENCE IN TERMINOLOGY
REFLECTS DIFFERENT EMPHASIS BY THE TWO GERMANIES IN REGARD
TO THIS AGREEMENT. BOLEN

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